

SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM



CHAPTER 24

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Special Milk Program

This chapter discusses the Special Milk Program (SMP) which provides milk to children who do not participate in other Federal meal service programs. This program reimburses sponsors for the milk they serve.

The SMP is designed to encourage consumption of fluid milk by children who do not participate in any other Federal meal service program and are enrolled in an eligible facility. Any school or nonprofit child care institution, summer camp, or any similar nonprofit institution devoted to the care and training of children can participate in the SMP upon request.

Sponsors in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Program may participate in SMP to provide milk to children in half-day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs where children do not have access to the school meal programs.



You have two choices in administering the program:

- Collect free applications

If you collect free applications, then you must count each child as they receive milk and claim them in the proper category, free or paid. By doing this, you can receive reimbursement for the cost of your milk for the free children and the current rate of reimbursement for the children who do not qualify as free. This method requires Point of Service counting as the children receive their milk in order to be able to count and claim them correctly by category.

- Do not collect free applications

If you do not collect free applications for the children in the milk program, you must claim all the children as "Paid" on the claim form. You will be reimbursed for each 8 oz. serving of milk at the current rate of reimbursement. This method only requires that the number of 8 oz. servings of milk be counted. This is the easier method, but you will receive a lesser amount of milk reimbursement.

You may charge the children a yearly milk fee. The amount would be figured by applying the cost of a carton of milk minus the 8 oz. milk reimbursement rate multiplied by days of school. This will equal the yearly milk fee.

Example: \$0.19 cost per carton minus \$0.155 reimbursement rate (FY2006) multiplied by 170 school days = \$5.95.
Round to \$6.00 per year for milk.

There is now an edit check that assures that you cannot claim free in the CNP2000 claim system if you do not collect free milk applications.

A sponsor may pad slightly to cover for administrative costs and the cost of a milk cooler.

Types of Milk that Can Be Offered

Schools or institutions may choose pasteurized fluid types of unflavored or flavored whole milk, low-fat milk, skim milk, and cultured buttermilk that meet State and local standards. All milk should contain vitamins A and D at levels specified by the Food and Drug Administration.

Question and Answers

- (1) Can students get reimbursed for more than one glass of milk per serving period per day?

ANSWER:

Yes. Reimbursement for the Special Milk Program is determined by an 8 ounce portion. This means that if one student wants to drink five – 8 ounce portions of milk the organization can get reimbursement for five – 8 ounce portions of milk. There is no restriction on one per serving time.

- (2) Is there a free and reduced reimbursement rate in the Special Milk Program?

ANSWER:

There is no reduced rate in the SMP, just a free reimbursement rate.

NOTE: This is different from the National School Lunch Program.



Resources

For more information regarding federal regulations visit the USDA web site:

USDA Special Milk Program
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Milk/Default.htm>